Estimated cost of Haldia Fertilizer Project

2056. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the estimated cost of Haldia Fertilizer Project in 1971 and in March, 1990;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in the completion of the project; and

(c) amount of foreign exchange out-go for input of fertilizer which could have otherwise saved if the plants of the project had gone into commercial production in 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The Haldia Fertilizer project was approved in 1971 at an estimated cost of Rs. 88.03 crores; the total expenditure upto 31.3.1990 was Rs. 592.83 crores.

(b) The main reasons for the delay in the completion of the project were major indigeniation of equipment for the first time, major increase in scope of civil works, power shortage, mismatch of equipments related to a variety of foreign credits frequent equipment breakdowns and disturbed industrial relation during the construction and commissioning chases.

(c) This has been estimated at US $77 million per annum, approximately.

Agreement for making Drugs for Caring Renal Failure and Aids

2057. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Hindustan Antibiotics Limited has entered into an agreement with an American Company for making drugs for treatment of renal failure and AIDS;

(b) if so, the details of this agreement giving particulars of the specific drugs for AIDS threatment;

(c) what are the details of the buy back arrangements at present in operation between Hindustan Antibiotics Limited and any foreign company; and

(d) what are the details of the sales to such foreign companies in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) M/s. Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL), Pimpri, Pune a public sector undertaking, has entered into an agreement with an American company for marketing and distribution of Erythropoeitin after necessary clinical trails in India Erythropoeitin is used for treatment of anaemea in patients of renal failure and in treatment of patients of AIDS.

(c) and (d) There is to buy back arrangement for the product. Erythropocitin would be purchased and distributed in India subject to successful clinical trials. No sales of such products to foreign countries has so far been made in terms of the agreement which was concluded in October, 1991.

Steep hike in the prices of life saving drugs

2058. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the steps Government propose to take to contain steep hike is the prices of life saving essential medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): It is the endeavour of the Government to ensure availability of life saving medicines in abundant quantity at reasonable prices to the consumers. Almost about 70 percent of the formulations in the market are presently under price control. The prices of these formulations are fixed in accordance with the permissions of DPCO, 1987, as per a formula and on the basis of fixed norms and after obtaining recommendations of the BICP which is an Expert Body of the Government on Industrial Costs and Pricing. This